

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A system for personalizing a multiple page, bound document, comprising:

an input mechanism constructed to hold a plurality of the bound documents to be personalized;

first and second leafing mechanisms disposed downstream from said input mechanism, said first and second leafing mechanisms each including an apparatus for turning pages of the document, and said first leafing mechanism is disposed upstream of said second leafing mechanism;

first and second personalization mechanisms disposed downstream from said input mechanism, said first personalization mechanism ~~being capable of performing~~ is configured to perform a personalization operation on a page of the document that is different from a personalization operation performed by said second personalization mechanism, and said first personalization mechanism is disposed upstream of said second personalization mechanism; and

said first and second leafing mechanisms and said first and second personalization mechanisms are arranged so that said first leafing mechanism is disposed upstream of said first personalization mechanism and said second leafing mechanism is disposed upstream of said second personalization mechanism.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second personalization mechanisms comprises a laser personalizing module that includes a laser for laser personalizing a page of the bound document.

3. (canceled)

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4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said input mechanism is configured to hold the bound documents in a closed configuration.

5. (canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second personalization mechanisms comprises a printer mechanism that is configured to perform printing on a selected page of the bound document.

7. (canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein said printer mechanism and one of said first and second leafing mechanisms are combined into a single module.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein said printer mechanism includes a print head, and further including a recirculating mechanism for recirculating the bound document to a location upstream of the print head after printing by the print head.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising an integrated circuit chip module.

13. (canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second leafing mechanisms is configured to pass the document therethrough without turning a page of the document.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second personalization mechanisms is configured to pass the document therethrough without performing a personalization operation.

16. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the bound document is a passport.

17. (Currently amended) A method of personalizing a multiple page, bound document, comprising:

inputting a bound document into a first leafing mechanism;  
turning to a first preselected page using the first leafing mechanism;  
inputting the document into a first personalization mechanism;  
performing a personalization operation on the first preselected page; and  
inputting the bound document into a second leafing mechanism downstream from the first personalization mechanism, and turning to a second preselected page, inputting the document into a second personalization mechanism downstream from the second leafing mechanism, and performing a personalization operation on the second preselected page that is different from the personalization operation performed by the first personalization mechanism.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the first personalization mechanism comprises a laser personalization module, and performing a personalization operation comprises performing a laser personalization operation.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the laser personalization operation comprises at least one of laser engraving or laser perforation.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein an input mechanism holding a plurality of the bound documents is located upstream of said first leafing mechanism, and further including mechanically picking a the bound document from the input mechanism and inputting the picked document into the first leafing mechanism.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further including discharging a personalized bound document into an output mechanism.

22. (canceled)

23. (original) The method of claim 17, further including closing the document.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the first personalization mechanism comprises an integrated circuit chip module, and performing a personalization operation comprises using the integrated circuit chip module to program an integrated circuit chip on the document.

25. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the document is a passport.

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A system for personalizing a multiple page, bound document, comprising:

a plurality of personalization mechanisms each of which is ~~capable of performing~~ configured to perform a personalization operation on one or more pages of the document; and

a plurality of leafing mechanisms each of which includes apparatus for turning pages of the document;

wherein the personalization mechanisms and leafing mechanisms are arranged such that for each said personalization mechanism that performs a personalization function on a page of the document that is different from a page personalized by a preceding one of said personalization mechanisms, there is one of said leafing mechanisms associated with each said personalization mechanism for turning to ~~the~~ a correct page.

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29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second leafing mechanisms includes apparatus for fully opening the bound document to define first and second document halves, and one of said first and second personalization mechanisms comprises a printer mechanism that includes a print head and a mechanism for maintaining a generally constant distance between the first and second halves and the print head during printing.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the mechanism for maintaining a generally constant distance comprises a first roller supporting the first half, and a second roller supporting the second half and spaced from the first roller defining a gap therebetween.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the bound document includes a spine, and the spine is positioned in the gap between the first and second rollers during printing.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the system includes a transport path, and the input mechanism comprises a receptacle for holding a plurality of the bound documents, the axis of the receptacle being disposed at an angle to the transport path so that bound documents held by the receptacle are out of the transport path.

33. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein if additional personalization by either the first personalization mechanism or the second personalization mechanism is necessary, returning the document back to at least one of:

- a) the first leafing mechanism after the personalization operation on the first preselected page by the first personalization mechanism, or
- b) the second leafing mechanism after the personalization operation on the second preselected page by the second personalization mechanism.